biological control and use of bio-pesticides in the country; and

(e) whether a Task Force will be set up for promoting sustainable agriculture with representatives for voluntary groups such as Society of Citizen Concerns, New Delhi which have been promoting it through writings and reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To meet the demand of growing population, food production per unit area could only be achieved by adopting improved crop production technology of *which use of fertiliser is one of the major* components. However, the Government is promoting the concept of balanced and integrated use of fertiliser including organic manures, bio-fertilisers, etc.

(c) In the intensive cropping system, exodus of plant nutrients could only be replenished by use of fertilisers. Use of organic manures, bio-fertiliser, etc. is also promoted as a complimentary source of nutrients.

(d) Government is promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which includes biological methods and need based use of chemical pesticide in a safe and judicious manner.

(e) Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a technical group to go into the viability of organic farming where a voluntary organisation is being represented as a member.

Problems faced by farmers

4435. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report, Grey Future—Green Fields from Greepeace London reviewed in Economic Times dated 27th June, 1993;

(b) whether it is a fact that the problems actually facing the western countries are already here or in the pipeline and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken;

(c) whether Government are aware that for a variety of reasons including health of the farmers and the soil the world over there is movement towards Sustainable Agriculture; and

(d) whether large number of farmers in USA and Europe as per reports have turned organic which appeared in the Economic Times of 25th July, 1993 and if so, what is the number and hectares of land covered by similar farmers in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir, The Government of India has been Economic Times dated 27.6.1993 reviewing the report Grey Future—Green Fields.

(b) The Government is aware of emerging problems facing sustainable agriculture. Steps are being taken to promote integrated nutrient management, including use of organic manures and bio-fertilizers. Government is also propagating Integrated Pest Management including use of bio-pesticides.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. However, no statistics is being maintaned separately for the area covered and the number o formers adopting organic farming in India.

Sustainable agricuture

4436. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the excellent report brought out by U. S. General Accounting Office counterpart of CAG on the subject of Sustain-